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PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN RELIEF TO THE PEOPLE OF KAMPUCHEA

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 5 November 1979, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. WALDHEIM (Secretary-General of the United Nations)

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Closure of the Conference

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE (continued)

1. The representative of PAPUA NEW GUINEA said it was sad that political rivalries should be causing suffering to thousands of innocent human beings. As the Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea had said at the current session of the General Assembly, his Government appreciated the role played by the ASEAN countries in meeting the problem, welcomed the establishment of refugee-processing centres in the ASEAN region, although the success of those centres would depend on the willingness of developed countries to accept more refugees, and therefore supported the provision of urgent relief to the civilian population, the resettlement of the displaced Kampucheans and the efforts of the Secretary-General to co-ordinate relief assistance.

2. The announcement by the Executive Director of UNICEF that it would take at least $110 million to meet the needs of the joint programme of UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) over the next six months clearly showed the gravity of the situation. Unless massive assistance was speedily provided, the people of Kampuchea would continue to face a disastrous shortage of food, medical supplies, shelter and transport, which might threaten peace and security not only within the region but in the entire world. His Government appreciated the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and by national and international humanitarian organizations in providing relief assistance to the civilian population of Kampuchea. It also paid tribute to those Member States that had made commitments to provide humanitarian assistance. As far as Papua New Guinea was concerned, his Government had pledged $US 300,000 for the refugee programme in Indo-China, and it would honour its commitments.

3. The representative of MALAYSIA said the response to the Secretary-General's initiative showed that the peoples of the world wanted to assist the Kampuchean people, who were suffering starvation and disease as a result of armed conflict and natural disasters. International assistance must be provided immediately to the people of Kampuchea and the Kampuchean refugees in Thailand.

4. Malaysia was already participating in the assistance effort, as it was receiving refugees in transit. Forty thousand of those refugees were still in Malaysia, which placed a very heavy burden on the country. For that reason, Malaysia could only pledge a sum of $50,000, as a token of its concern for the situation of the Kampuchean people. His Government hoped that the aid would be channelled to the civilian population, without discrimination and regardless of political considerations, and that the responsible authorities would do all they could to facilitate its distribution. His Government also appreciated the contribution already made by some international organizations and various relief agencies.

5. The representative of INDIA said that, because of the historical and cultural links between the two peoples, the people of India had been deeply moved by the suffering and deprivation of the Kampuchean people, whose situation was all more tragic because it had been caused not by natural phenomena but by the actions of certain individuals.

6. The most opportune initiative taken by the Secretary-General once again demonstrated his concern for humanitarian causes and his desire to contribute to international peace and security. The Government of India also appreciated the efforts made by United Nations agencies to alleviate the situation both within Kampuchea and in the countries where there were refugees, especially the efforts of UNICEF, UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Tribute should also be paid to several non-governmental organizations, such as OXFAM, Catholic Relief Services, the World Council of Churches and the Quakers.

7. The Government of India had not waited for an international initiative to provide relief and assistance to the Kampuchean people. India had already announced a gift of 1,000 tons of rice, valued at about $400,000, and had sent medicines worth over $6,000. Arrangements were being made by the Government of India to provide, on a bilateral basis, food-stuffs and medicines worth over $25,000.

8. The representative of HUNGARY said that Hungary had provided direct assistance to the legitimate Government of Kampuchea and considered that the reconstruction efforts undertaken by the People's Revolutionary Council deserved the support of the international community. Hungary had already sent medicines and food-stuffs to Kampuchea and was ready to furnish additional aid. In the view of his Government, it was important that all assistance should be channelled through the legitimate Government of Kampuchea. Assistance programmes should not be turned into tools for interfering in the country's internal affairs. His Government considered that the task of the United Nations and of all members of the international community was to remedy the present situation in Kampuchea and to create normal living conditions there.

9. The representative of ITALY said that the Conference would allow an effective and well-planned continuation of the relief operations already undertaken by international and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance to the civilian population of Kampuchea. The Conference would also reflect the image of an international community united, beyond its political divergences, in a display of solidarity, and the Italian Government was confident that the parties most directly concerned would give their full co-operation to the relief operations.

10. Over $6 million of the contribution of the EEC countries described by the representative of Ireland would be borne by the Italian Government. In addition, his Government had already granted $120,000 to the UNICEF assistance programmes and had sent to Bangkok more than 20 million lire in medical supplies. Moreover, it intended to make a gift of 1,000 tons of rice, worth $400,000, through the World Food Programme, and it was ready to furnish a medical unit. Since July 1979, Italy had granted asylum to 1,453 refugees from South-East Asia, including many Kampucheans, and it planned to receive 400 more by January 1980.

11. The representative of SWITZERLAND said that the actions undertaken by the ICRC, UNICEF, UNHCR and other United Nations agencies should be continued with the

(Representative of Switzerland)

support of the international community. In addition to the appropriations it had already approved (including 1 million Swiss francs for the dispatch of milk powder), the Federal Council had decided to make a special appropriation of 3 million Swiss francs for the international relief programme. It was also ready to provide the services of the Swiss Disaster Relief Corps, as had been requested.

12. The Swiss Government considered that international assistance should go to all who needed it, without discrimination. Neither the rationale nor the goals of such assistance should be political. All parties concerned should intensify their co-operation in order to ensure the survival of the Kampuchean people.

13. UNICEF and ICRC must be allowed to have adequate personnel and resources in Kampuchea to distribute the international aid. The Swiss Government hoped that the authorities concerned would facilitate the relief operations. It also hoped that the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 would be fully applied and that it would prove possible to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflicts raging in the Indo-Chinese peninsula.

14. The representative of the NETHERLANDS said that the plight of the Kampuchean people, who were suffering from the ravages of famine and disease, called for a special effort by the international community. The Netherlands Government wished to express its profound respect for UNICEF and ICRC, which under extremely difficult circumstances had prepared an emergency programme covering the coming six months. It also paid tribute to non-governmental organizations, particularly those assisting the relief effort in Thailand.

15. In addition to its share of the European Economic Community's contribution, the Netherlands Government had in recent weeks announced contributions to several organizations amounting to a total of $2,246,000, as follows: $150,000 to the UNICEF/ICRC operations, $346,000 to the World Council of Churches, $150,000 to OXFAM and $1.6 million to the World Food Programme. The Netherlands Government was also prepared to make available an additional amount of 5 million guilders, or approximately $2.5 million. It had not yet decided on the exact destination of those funds, but they would be allocated to programmes of direct assistance to the people of Kampuchea as well as to Kampuchean refugees in Thailand. Lastly, his Government pledged 2.5 million guilders, or $1.25 million, to the programme for Kampuchean refugees in Thailand to be implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

16. The Netherlands Government called on all authorities concerned to continue to co-operate with a view to facilitating the distribution of food and medical supplies and to ensure the effectiveness of the relief operation. In addition to immediate assistance, the possibility of long-term structural assistance must also be investigated, because Kampuchea would need to be reconstructed completely. The members of the international community must consider their future efforts now, so as to be prepared once the emergency relief phase was ended. In the view of his Government, the region had the necessary instruments available to facilitate such long-term assistance in, for example, the Mekong Commission and the Asian Development Bank.

17. The representative of BURMA said that the tragic plight of Kampuchea was a sad consequence of the armed conflict which had been raging in the country for almost a year. The famine, hardship and deprivation suffered by the population had no parallel in history. Burma believed that that humanitarian problem required urgent international action under the auspices of the United Nations. In that connexion, the United Nations agencies and other international organizations already engaged in relief assistance to the Kampuchean people should be commended. He pledged a sum of $10,000.

18. The representative of the GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC recalled that for several years Kampuchea had been experiencing considerable difficulties and shortages of food, pharmaceutical products, medical supplies and other necessities. The People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, which was trying to remedy that situation, could count on the solidarity of the international community, provided that certain elements did not take advantage of the situation to intervene in the country's internal affairs.

19. The German Democratic Republic attached great importance to the international effort of solidarity, to which by a unilateral decision it was contributing, inter alia, in the provision of means of transport. Since March 1979, it had dispatched to Kampuchea a special air-lift of medicines, milk powder and baby food. A second delivery had been organized in September and preparations were now being made for a third consignment, by air or by sea, which would include food-stuffs, bicycles and teaching materials. The German Democratic Republic would also be sending medicines to Kampuchea and would participate in the training of Kampuchean citizens for community services. The Red Cross Committee of the German Democratic Republic was also providing assistance to the Kampuchean people.

20. In the view of his Government, the necessary conditions must be created to ensure a settled way of life for the Kampuchean people, who should soon be able to overcome their difficulties. Every effort must be made to help them to succeed in doing so.

21. The representative of VIET NAM welcomed the initiative taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in convening the Conference with a view to remedying the current situation in Kampuchea, which was characterized mainly by a serious shortage of food, medicines, housing and means of communication. The Kampuchean people themselves had made tremendous efforts for the reconstruction of their country but, until such time as there was a clear improvement in the situation, the problem must be solved by humanitarian methods in the shortest possible time.

22. Despite its many economic problems and the threat of further aggression, Viet Nam was doing everything it could to help its brethren in Kampuchea. It had sent 120,000 tons of food supplies, 10,000 tons of rice seed and large quantities

(Representative of Viet Nam)

of medicine, farm implements and general supplies, to a total value of 131 million dong, or approximately $50 million. Furthermore, a movement was developing among the people in the Vietnamese provinces bordering on Kampuchea to provide emergency relief to the inhabitants of the neighbouring Kampuchean provinces by sending tens of thousands of tons of food, rice seed and general supplies. The Government and people of Viet Nam viewed the bilateral aid they were providing to Kampuchea as a high international obligation, and they welcomed the large contributions made by a number of countries and the efforts exerted by UNICEF and ICRC.

23. Nevertheless, in the view of his delegation, any humanitarian aid to Kampuchea would be truly effective only if those providing it scrupulously respected the right to independence and sovereignty of that heroic people, which had borne so many sacrifices for its right to self-determination. From that standpoint, Viet Nam fully supported the position of the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, as expressed in the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kampuchea on 4 November 1979. In accepting and distributing food aid provided without political conditions by several countries - the USSR, Viet Nam, and other socialist countries - and by various international organizations - ICRC, UNICEF, OXFAM - the Council had shown its goodwill and its desire to co-operate, contrary to slanderous allegations that had been made. That external aid, together with the people's mutual assistance and food production efforts, had made it possible to end the threat of famine in several regions of Kampuchea. In the next two months 570,000 hectares of rice would be harvested, and 200,000 hectares of dry-season crops would help considerably to bridge the seasonal gap in the following year. The people of Kampuchea regarded those achievements as a great victory, attesting to their vitality, their confidence and their support for the People's Revolutionary Council, which was in control throughout the country and was administering it as the sole authentic and legal representative of Kampuchea. Anticipating an increase in foreign aid, the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam had agreed on the opening of the Mekong to navigation and the use of the port of Phnom Penh for the delivery of international aid, which thus far had been passing through the port of Komom Som and the Pochentong airport. From Phnom Penh, the People's Revolutionary Council was in a position to distribute aid to any region of the country, including the areas bordering on Thailand.

24. The statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had also indicated that the People's Revolutionary Council was prepared to accept any bilateral or multilateral aid that was given without political conditions. The Council had not made recognition of the People's Republic of Kampuchea a prerequisite for humanitarian aid and had expressed its readiness to enter into discussions in a spirit of equality and mutual respect, with countries and international organizations wishing to aid Kampuchea while respecting its sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in its internal affairs. It would welcome all who were motivated by goodwill and who wanted to enter the country to find out on the spot how they could help to check the threat of famine in Kampuchea.

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(Representative of Viet Nam)

25. In the view of his delegation, the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kampuchea reflected the true situation of that country and contained reasonable and rational proposals aimed at creating favourable conditions for the effective implementation of humanitarian aid by the international community. Once again, Viet Nam hoped that the Conference would be a success. It was regrettable that some delegations, including the Canadian delegation, had misused the humanitarian forum offered by the Conference to make statements hostile to Viet Nam. His delegation was, of course, prepared to engage in a political debate so that it could tell who were the parties truly responsible for the tragedy, but it categorically rejected the statements of Canada and certain other countries concerning Viet Nam. It hoped that steps would be taken to prevent a repetition of such abuses.

26. The representative of NORWAY said that the Norwegian Government would support all efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the Kampuchean people, whether in Kampuchea itself or in refugee camps and centres in Thailand. It appealed to all parties concerned not to let political considerations hinder the implementation of the humanitarian programmes that were being organized.

27. The Norwegian Government greatly appreciated the efforts that had been and were being made by the International Committee of the Red Cross and by such United Nations agencies as UNICEF, UNHCR and the World Food Programme, and the decision of the Government of Thailand to receive all refugees from Kampuchea.

28. A televised campaign carried out recently under the auspices of the Norwegian Refugee Council had resulted in contributions totalling 70 million kroner, or approximately $14 million, for refugees throughout the world. The Norwegian Refugee Council had decided to set aside 5 million kroner as a first contribution to relief assistance for Kampuchean refugees in Thailand. The Norwegian Red Cross had dispatched a fully equipped field hospital to the Thai/Kampuchea border area, and had made a contribution of 1 million kroner through the ICRC. The Norwegian Church Relief had granted 3.25 million kroner through the World Council of Churches and OXFAM, and the Norwegian Save the Children Fund had given contributions amounting to 1.25 million kroner.

29. The Norwegian Government had contributed 8 million kroner through the World Food Programme for aid to the people of Kampuchea. It had also contributed to the construction of warehouses in Thailand and had granted 2 million kroner to the joint UNICEF/ICRC programme. Subject to parliamentary approval, the Norwegian Government intended to grant an additional contribution of 8 million kroner, which would bring its total contribution to 10 million kroner or approximately $2 million.

30. The representative of POLAND expressed the hope that the Conference, which was exclusively concerned with emergency humanitarian relief to the Kampuchean people, would yield positive results. The genocide perpetrated in that country by the Pol Pot régime had already claimed 3 million victims and the remainder of the population had been reduced to bondage. His Government had followed closely the people's resistance to that régime and the establishment of a new government, which was to be congratulated in particular on its non-aligned position and its desire for peace. Kampuchea should certainly receive assistance, provided that its sovereignty was respected and that such assistance was not used as a pretext for interfering in its domestic affairs or for purposes contrary to the interests of the Kampuchean people. Moreover, that assistance should be subject to the consent of the Kampuchean authorities and should be provided solely through the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, if the situation were not to be exacerbated.

31. As soon as the country had been liberated, Poland and the other Socialist countries had started to render aid to Kampuchea. As stated in the document on the situation in Kampuchea (A/34/623), the Socialist countries had dispatched over 200,000 tons of food to Kampuchea, as compared with only 200 tons dispatched by the international organizations.

32. Poland itself had supplied the Kampuchean Government with aid on unconditional terms, with a view to meeting the most pressing needs, mainly in the form of food, medicines, essential goods, means of transport, radio equipment, etc. That aid, which amounted to a total of 50 million zlotys, would be delivered in its entirety by the middle of December. The Polish Red Cross Committee, associations of women and young people, trade unions and the Polish Committee for Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia and Africa were likewise participating in the relief effort. The Polish Government and people would continue to assist the Kampuchean people in the months that lay ahead.

33. The representative of NEW ZEALAND said that his country warmly supported the emergency relief operations for the Kampuchean people which the United Nations was undertaking in co-operation with the ICRC, and trusted that they would be continued and strengthened in the future. The New Zealand Government had contributed, through the New Zealand Red Cross, to refugee relief in Thai border areas. It had also made a cash grant of $100,000 to the joint ICRC/UNICEF relief programme in Kampuchea. His Government continued to keep the situation under review on the basis of reports from international agencies working in the area.

34. The New Zealand people had responded generously to the appeal for support for the ICRC and United Nations programmes, as well as for other relief organizations. Voluntary agencies had already sent substantial quantities of money and materials to the region, which were expected to increase as distribution channels and other necessary machinery were established.

35. The representative of CZECHOSLOVAKIA said that his country, without engaging in propaganda, supplied aid to peoples who were in a difficult economic and social situation as a result of foreign interference, the aftermath of colonialism, wars of oppression, natural disasters and epidemics. It had decided to take part in the Pledging Conference for emergency humanitarian relief to the people of Kampuchea because it was convinced that the United Nations should also assist Kampuchea.

36. In 1979, Czechoslovakia had supplied Kampuchea with food, pharmaceutical products and medical supplies, equipment for medical stations, clothing, textiles, building materials and consumer goods in a total amount of 55 million Czechoslovak crowns, excluding transport costs. Czechoslovakia was also participating in Kampuchea's economic and social recovery within the framework of long-term bilateral treaties under which, for example, an electric power station, a sugar refinery and a motor-car assembly plant were to be built. All of that aid was being supplied through the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea and in keeping with a spirit of solidarity with the Kampuchean people who, having suffered from foreign aggression like their neighbour Viet Nam, now desired to live in democracy and peace.

37. The representative of DENMARK said that the Danish people and Government wished to participate in the relief assistance for the Kampuchean people who were suffering cruelly from hunger, malnutrition and disease. As a member country of the European Community, Denmark had contributed to the additional grant of $35 million pledged by the representative of Ireland at the previous meeting. The Danish Government had also decided, on 29 October 1979, to contribute the sum of 5 million Danish kroner, on a bilateral basis, for the Kampuchean people and Kampuchean refugees in Thailand. Half of that sum, channelled through the Danish Red Cross Committee, would be allocated to the joint ICRC/UNICEF relief programme and the other half, channelled through Danchurchaid, would be allocated to the relief work being carried out by OXFAM, the World Council of Churches and the Catholic Council of Thailand for Development.

38. His delegation was grateful to the humanitarian agencies which were carrying out that relief work in Kampuchea, and trusted that all the parties concerned would co-operate fully with those agencies so that relief was brought as quickly and as effectively as possible to those who so desperately needed it.

39. The representative of FINLAND said that his country welcomed the convening of the Conference by the Secretary-General and the efforts undertaken, particularly by the ICRC and UNICEF, to bring relief to Kampuchea. Finland, for its part, had pledged a contribution of 2 million markkaa, or a little over $500,000, for the joint emergency relief programme in addition to the aid it had already rendered through the Red Cross and the churches, which amounted to approximately 1 million markkaa.

40. The representative of the LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC said that his country appreciated the feelings of deep concern which the United Nations Secretary-General had expressed regarding the fate of the Kampuchean people,

(Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic)

as of all peoples who were experiencing serious difficulties and deprivation whether due to natural disasters or whether man-made. It also appreciated the efforts made by certain international organizations, including UNICEF and the ICRC, to alleviate the sufferings of the Kampuchean people.

41. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had already provided the Kampuchean people with assistance to a value of $US 2 million in the form of capital goods and basic necessities, as well as 500 tons of rice, and it would continue to provide Kampuchea with bilateral aid in accordance with its capabilities. With regard to international aid, he said that it was imperative to respect the just position taken in that regard by the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea: the aid should not be subject to any condition, it should be channelled through the real ruling body in Kampuchea, i.e. the People's Revolutionary Council, and the ways and means of delivering that aid should be determined by mutual agreement with that Council, duly taking into consideration all the relevant conditions of need, convenience and effectiveness.

42. The delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which had profound feelings of solidarity and fraternity with and compassion for the people of Kampuchea, wished the Conference full success.

43. The representative of CUBA felt that assistance for Kampuchea should be provided to all who were in need of it without any discrimination. Nevertheless, the distribution of aid should not become a pretext for political manoeuvres. His Government was already providing Kampuchea with bilateral assistance in order to help it not only to meet its own needs but also to rebuild the country, and Cuba was planning to expand its assistance in the future. It was to be hoped that emergency international aid, which was currently very necessary, would be only part of the aid that would be supplied to enable the Kampuchean people to return to a normal way of life. The countries which had replied to the Secretary-General's appeal should be able to demonstrate the same generosity to the millions of Palestinians, South Africans, Namibians and Zimbabweans who had been deprived of their homeland.

44. The representative of CHINA said that in the view of his Government, the United Nations should play a role in providing emergency humanitarian relief to Kampuchea. At the same time, it should be stressed that world opinion demanded that the Vietnamese authorities should give explicit assurances that the relief supplies would be distributed by United Nations personnel directly to the Kampuchean people in the various parts of the country. Only in that way would international aid really help to alleviate the suffering of the Kampuchean people. Otherwise, the relief would fall into the hands of foreign aggressors and their puppets and the tragedy of the Kampuchean people would be prolonged and aggravated, which was of course totally impermissible. Furthermore, if the Kampuchean problem was to be solved, the foreign aggressors should be forced to withdraw all their forces from Kampuchea immediately and to halt their aggression against that country and their military occupation of Kampuchean territory.

(Representative of China)

45. The Chinese Government and people had always supported the Kampuchean people in their just struggle against foreign aggression and in defence of their independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity. China had given and would continue to give substantial assistance to the Kampuchean people politically, morally and materially, and it was at the same time in favour of the international community giving humanitarian relief to the Kampuchean people. The Chinese Government also wished to pay a tribute to the Government of Thailand, which had received large numbers of Kampuchean refugees and was providing them with humanitarian relief.

46. The representative of VIET NAM, speaking on a point of order, said that the comments made by the representative of China were not relevant to the Pledging Conference: they reminded one of thief crying "thief!"

47. The CHAIRMAN said that because of the special nature of the Conference and the fact that the rules of procedure of the General Assembly did not apply to it, if a delegation felt obliged to reply to remarks made by a speaker the Secretariat would distribute the written text of that reply to all delegations.

48. The representative of AUSTRIA thanked the Secretary-General for convening the Pledging Conference and likewise expressed his gratitude to the international organizations whose efforts had contributed to launching the relief operation under the most difficult and adverse circumstances. The Austrian Government would provide an initial contribution of 1 million Austrian schillings to the joint UNICEF/ICRC emergency relief programme. In addition, a number of governmental and private organizations in Austria were already carrying out humanitarian relief programmes for the people of Kampuchea; he mentioned of the Austrian branch of Caritas, amounting to 4 million Austrian schillings, which was primarily designed to bring aid to Kampuchean refugees in Thailand.

49. The representative of LUXEMBOURG observed that the sole concern of the international community should be to be able to supply aid without any restriction or discrimination. His country had already made a contribution of 5 million Luxembourg francs to ICRC to provide emergency food aid to Kampuchea through the Luxembourg Red Cross, which had also received an additional aid donation of 700,000 Luxembourg francs.

50. The representative of BULGARIA recalled that at a recent session the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance had decided to provide emergency aid to Kampuchea. That country was currently making enormous efforts to return to a normal way of life and carry out the task of reconstruction. However, it was obvious that in view of the gravity of the situation additional assistance from the international community was necessary. Such assistance should not be subject to any condition and the Conference should not provide the opportunity for unjustified attacks against certain countries by other countries in an attempt to cover up their own machinations. His Government felt that the assistance provided through the United Nations should be channelled directly to the Government of Kampuchea so that it could be effectively distributed and so that its humanitarian purposes could be achieved.

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(Representative of Bulgaria)

51. The Bulgarian Government had provided to date considerable and diversified assistance to the Kampuchean people, on a bilateral basis, amounting to more than $US 6 million. Additional assistance amounting to $US 8 million was currently on its way to Kampuchea. Bulgaria would continue to channel its assistance directly to the Kampuchean Government, which was in the best position to judge needs and decide on the most effective use of the aid provided.

52. The representative of LEBANON said that his country had not forgotten the horrors of the First World War: a third of its inhabitants had died from hunger and many others from disease, while yet others had emigrated. The international community had then come to the rescue of Lebanon, which had survived and had gained a different perception of human solidarity.

53. The Lebanese Government, which was still receiving international aid, wished nevertheless to demonstrate its solidarity with the Kampuchean people: it would pledge a token contribution of LL 50,000 which would come mostly from private citizens in Lebanon who, like the Kampuchean people, had known hunger and war.

54. The representative of the HOLY SEE said that the action already undertaken by the Holy See in an effort to ensure the survival of hundreds of thousands of people in Kampuchea was being carried out at two levels - at the international level the Holy See was co-ordinating all action undertaken by Catholic organizations and associations, while at the local level it was collaborating directly with the responsible national and international authorities to ensure that what was collected was properly distributed. Thus, for example, since the previous July an American religious organization was carrying out a programme amounting to $US 1.7 million to assist the people on the borders of Kampuchea and Thailand; furthermore, European and American organizations were preparing to send 8,000 tons of goods to the Kampuchean population in Thailand. Other American religious organizations hoped to collect $US 5 million. However, in view of the fact that the Conference had been convened so quickly, he was not able to indicate the exact amount of the contribution from the Holy See, but he could already say that it would be substantial.

55. The representative of NEPAL announced a contribution of $US 10,000.

56. The representative of INDONESIA paid a tribute to the many international humanitarian organizations which, by their energetic efforts in South-East Asia, were helping to alleviate the sufferings of the people of the region, and he expressed gratification that the peoples of many nations had responded favourably to their requests for assistance.

57. His Government, for its part, was currently engaged, in co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in organizing temporary reception for some 50,000 "boat people" until they found asylum in other countries. Although this placed a heavy burden on it, it nevertheless wished, in a spirit of humanitarian solidarity, to respond to the Secretary-General's

(Representative of Indonesia)

noble initiative and announced that it would make a contribution in order to alleviate the sufferings of the Kampuchean people both in their own country and in Thailand. His Government hoped that it would shortly be able to inform the Secretary-General of the amount and nature of its assistance.

58. The representative of JAMAICA said that his Government unreservedly supported the initiative taken by the Secretary-General in convening the Pledging Conference for Emergency Humanitarian Relief to the People of Kampuchea, who were currently undergoing a national tragedy unprecedented in history.

59. In demonstration of its humanitarian solidarity with the Kampuchean people, the Jamaican Government announced a contribution of $US 5,000 to UNICEF and ICRC that was a nominal sum, in view of its limited resources. Nevertheless, it would be prepared to contemplate making an additional contribution at a later date, if the situation so required.

60. The representative of UGANDA said that all countries, particularly the rich ones, should, setting aside any political consideration, provide assistance as promptly as possible to the Cambodian people, who were devastated by hunger and illness.

61. His Government, for its part, unreservedly supported all the humanitarian efforts made by the United Nations in order to alleviate the sufferings of the Kampuchean people, but, having barely emerged from eight years of economic disaster, it was unfortunately unable materially to make a contribution at the current stage.

62. The representative of ICELAND said that the Icelandic Government and people were following with increasing anxiety the development of the situation in Kampuchea. The overwhelming distress of the people of that country, which was ravaged by war, called for the international community to take urgent steps in order to organize large-scale assistance.

63. Replying directly to the Secretary-General's appeal, the Icelandic Government announced a contribution of 1.2 million Icelandic krónur to UNICEF, UNHCR and ICRC, in order to enable them to implement their joint assistance programme.

64. Furthermore, the Icelandic Red Cross, as well as other voluntary humanitarian organizations, had announced that they would pay a total of 40 million Icelandic krónur through non-governmental international aid organizations.

65. The representative of YUGOSLAVIA said that the United Nations should take swift action in order to alleviate the immense calamity that had befallen the Khmer people. It must, however, be recognized that, however great the efforts expended by the international community, they could only partially alleviate the sufferings of the Kampucheans. The humanitarian problem in Kampuchea could be resolved in its entirety only when its underlying causes were removed, i.e., when an acceptable political settlement was achieved - a settlement that would enable the Khmer people to determine freely their destiny.

(Representative of Yugoslavia)

66. His country had already responded to the appeal launched by the Secretary-General at the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in Southern Asia, held at Geneva in July 1979. Guided by the same humanitarian principles, it wished to respond to the new appeal launched in favour of the Kampuchean people. The Yugoslav Red Cross had decided to participate, within the limits of its possibilities, in the humanitarian efforts expended by the international community: the amount and the nature of its contribution would be announced shortly.

67. Yugoslavia, which whole-heartedly supported that humanitarian aid, believed that it should be directed through the usual channels of, and under the supervision of, international organizations.

68. The representative of the BAHAMAS said that the international community could not remain indifferent to the tragedy currently taking place in Kampuchea: it must take collective emergency measures and make energetic efforts in order to save the dying and feed the hungry. It was the duty of all States to co-operate to that end and to make a contribution, however minimal.

69. The Bahamas was a very small country; however, in sympathy for human suffering and in the conviction that everything must be done to alleviate it, regardless of any consideration of ideology or nationality, it had decided to make a contribution and would inform the Secretary-General of the amount thereof as soon as possible.

70. The representative of ISRAEL said that the conscience of the world was shocked by the tragic and desperate plight of the people of Kampuchea, who could be saved only if all States rendered them prompt assistance.

71. The Government of Israel, for its part, had immediately decided to provide humanitarian assistance. It had sent a team of six doctors and four para-medics to the field clinics operating along the Thai-Kampuchean border, and their efforts were being co-ordinated with those of the International Red Cross. It had delivered two tons of medical supplies and equipment to the region; the cost of those two measures was estimated apparently at $US 55,000.

72. In addition to the measures being taken at the governmental level, the people themselves had expressed in various forms their solidarity with the Kampuchean people. For example, a nation-wide campaign had been launched by a number of groups, and many collections had been made for the purchase of food and medical supplies. That campaign, which had been highly successful had already made it possible to collect 30 million Israeli pounds ($US 0.5 million), which would be employed to purchase a field hospital for use by the Israeli medical team in Thailand.

73. The Israeli people, who knew what it was to suffer and to be refugees, could not remain unmoved by the human tragedy that was occurring in South-East Asia. It was therefore not surprising that Israel's offer of aid to the Kampuchean people had come in the wake of a programme of assistance which it had been extending to other refugees from Indo-China for the preceding two years.

(Representative of Israel)

74. Even before the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia, held in Geneva in July 1979, his Government had appealed to Heads of State to accept Indochinese refugees in proportion to the size of their population and their territory. Israel had itself already accepted almost 400 Indochinese refugees.

75. Israel wholeheartedly endorsed the efforts currently being undertaken by the United Nations to alleviate the suffering of the Kampuchean people, and was prepared to play its part, together with all the nations of the world, in contributing to a solution to that humanitarian problem.

76. The representative of ARGENTINA said that his country had participated in the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia, held in Geneva in summer 1979, and had pledged that it would double its cash contribution to the refugee programme and take in 1,000 families. Despite its remoteness from South-East Asia, Argentina could not remain indifferent to the extremely serious situation of millions of human beings in Indo-China and in particular in Kampuchea. It wholeheartedly endorsed the Secretary-General's new appeal and was gratified to note the constructive attitude of the countries of the region particularly Thailand, which had saved refugees and their families from death.

77. In the face of that situation, his Government had decided to supply Kampuchea with several thousand tons of wheat, according to the transport facilities which countries and relief organizations could place at its disposal. That did not include contributions from private sources. Argentina was also planning to send doctors to the refugee centres, should they prove to be needed.

78. That joint international effort should be followed up after the Conference and further contributions should continue to be made through UNICEF.

79. The representative of CYPRUS said that, although the Government and people of Cyprus were still healing their own wounds, they could not remain indifferent to the tragic fate of the Kampuchean people.

80. Unfortunately, Cyprus was itself facing the enormous problem created by thousands of refugees and displaced persons on its territory who were absorbing the greater part of its resources, and it could therefore make only a symbolic contribution of $US 2,000, $1,000 for the joint UNICEF/ICRC programme and $1,000 for the High Commissioner's programme. However, if the situation in Cyprus improved and the Kampuchean people were still in need of aid, his Government would review the matter.

81. The representative of SOUTH AFRICA said that, within the framework of the assistance provided by the international community with a view to alleviating the suffering of the Kampuchean people and in response to the Secretary-General's appeal, his Government would make available food-stuffs and medical supplies in a total amount of $US 75,000.

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82. The representative of PAKISTAN said that he was gratified that the Secretary-General had taken the initiative in convening the Pledging Conference for emergency humanitarian relief to the people of Kampuchea with a view to alerting world opinion once again to the enormous needs of that people, whose suffering and tragic fate were imposing an increasingly heavy burden of responsibility on neighbouring States and on the whole world. It was clear that only by re-establishing normal and stable conditions in Kampuchea would the tide of refugees be stemmed.

83. The Government and people of Pakistan had not remained indifferent to the tragic fate of the Indochinese refugees who had been forced, in their thousands, to leave their homes and seek refuge elsewhere. Accordingly, his Government, despite constraints and heavy responsibilities, had decided to supply 2,000 tons of rice for emergency relief for the Kampuchean people as a mark of its support for the concept of international humanitarian assistance.

84. The representative of GREECE said that the Pledging Conference for emergency humanitarian relief to the people of Kampuchea provided further tangible proof of the international community's concern at the tragic situation which the Kampuchean people had been experiencing for a number of years.

85. He pledged a cash contribution of $10,000, and said that a larger contribution in kind would be announced later. In addition, Greece had already rendered aid on a number of occasions to the Kampuchean people, in particular by taking in 200 refugees.

CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE

86. The PRESIDENT expressed deep gratitude to all the Governments that had taken part in the Conference. A total of $210 million, in cash and kind, had been pledged to the multilateral aid programme. As a result of the generosity of many Governments, the United Nations and the ICRC would be able to expand the scope of their humanitarian assistance substantially in an endeavour to ensure that the Kampuchean people were no longer decimated by hunger and disease.

87. He paid a tribute to the staff of the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations who were working, often in very difficult conditions, for that great humanitarian cause.

88. The United Nations agencies and the ICRC would, of course, endeavour to make the contributions pledged available to Kampucheans as rapidly as possible. However, although they had been given the necessary financial resources and the moral commitments that would enable them to mount relief assistance to Kampuchea, they were still facing a number of logistical problems which were compounded by political considerations. In endeavouring to surmount the obstacles, the need for practical negotiated arrangements was as important as the mobilization of resources.

(The President)

89. UNICEF, as the United Nations agency responsible for the co-ordination of relief, together with the ICRC, would continue its efforts to enlarge the channels for forwarding and distributing supplies. He would himself continue to follow the situation very closely and would notify the United Nations organs responsible if the efforts to render effective assistance to the starving Kampuchean people were thwarted. In that connexion, he was pleased to announce that he had received assurances which gave grounds to expect that the necessary co-operation would be forthcoming.

90. He declared the Pledging Conference for Emergency Humanitarian Relief to the People of Kampuchea closed.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.